

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

- 1 ~~1. A method for copying the contents of a first virtual disk defined by a~~
2 ~~first table having one or more entries that associate original segments of~~
3 ~~the virtual disk with location in one or more storage containers, the~~
4 ~~method comprising the step of copying the entries of the first table to a~~
5 ~~second table to create a second virtual disk.~~
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying the
2 first table to prevent write operations to the first virtual disk.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of modifying the first table
2 comprises activation of a Nw state.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of modifying the first table
2 comprises activation of an invalid state.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of delaying
2 input/output (I/O) operations to the first or second virtual disk.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein in the step of delaying I/O
2 operations comprises delaying I/O operation for a prespecified time period.
- 1 7. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of canceling the
2 delay of I/O operations.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving a write operation to one of the original segments;
3 creating a new segment;
4 copying the contents at the original segment to the new segment;
5 and
6 completing the write operation to the new segment.

